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### +Greetings and Welcome + I hope you are enjoying your Texas Templary!

**What An Honor** – For the past ten years, it has been my distinct honor to serve YOU, and this Grand Commandery, as a Grand Officer. As most Grand Commander's might say, my corps of Grand Officers are the BEST EVER, and I believe that; Ric, Gary, Ronnie, Clarence, Richard, Jack, John, Jerry P, Robert, Tom, Jerry K, and Brian, have been the most supportive and easiest officers I have ever had the pleasure to work with and they performed their duties professionally and with honor to our Grand Commandery.

For the last two years, it has been a real pleasure to have had the opportunity to travel across this great state, with Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Reese Harrison, and Most Illustrious Grand Master, Tom Turner, this year (and Very Illustrious Past Grand Master, Tommy Chapman and Very Illustrious Past Grand Master, Tim LaVergne, last year), participating with the York Rite Conferences, meeting with hundreds of York Rite Masons, promoting our programs and ideas, and listening to our membership about their concerns.

Over the last ten years, it has been a pleasurable and eye-opening experience, to have visited each and every Commandery in our jurisdiction of Texas, and WOW, the kindnesses and hospitality that has been extended to me has been exceptional and the quality of ritual has been superb and I am proud of you and pleased to have met you all.

This past year has been quite a test for me, both personally, professionally, and fraternally, but thanks to many friends and family, I have persevered and am moving forward;

To say that these past ten years have been an extremely pleasurable experience would be an understatement, but an honorable 'Labor of Love' might be a close description.

**Easter Observance** – This year, Easter falls on **Sunday, April 20, 2014**, and there are **three Grand Encampment Easter Observances** in the U.S., in **Alexandria, VA; Kansas City, MO; and Los Angeles, CA**. If you have never attended one of these events, you have truly missed something special, particularly the one in **Alexandria, VA**. Besides all of the sights in nearby **Washington, D.C.**, the Templar march up the hill, where the **George Washington Masonic Memorial** is located, is something to behold, with all of the Templar's marching in-step, in full uniform! And to watch as **our Grand Master, David Dixon Goodwin**, places a Templar wreath at the 'Tomb of the Unknowns', surrounded by the Sir Knights, in uniform, is very impressive! There are several of us that are planning on attending **the Easter Observance in Alexandria, VA**, as a Texas contingency; I hope that you too, will give this consideration and join us there!

**The Continuum** – For the last twelve months, I have had the pleasure of writing these Texas Supplements to the Knights Templar magazine and I hope that you have enjoyed reading them and maybe, were able to take something away from reading them and apply them to enhance your Templar experience. The constant theme of each month has been **YOU**, because it is **YOU** that is the key to our success, **YOU** are the spark that ignites the flame that starts the wild fire of membership growth... It is up to **YOU** to keep this growth moving forward!

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**At the Sound of the Last Trumpet** – We enjoy a membership in an incredible organization of Templar Masonry, based upon the history of the ancient Knights Templar. Its future successes depend upon the efforts of all of us, whether it is membership growth, leadership, or programming, and we must put our best efforts forward. Our abilities and commitment will be tested regularly. If you see a need, **address it**; If you identify a problem, **fix it**; Step up to the challenges that confront us, **YOU** are the answer to all of our needs, but **YOU** must engage and 'get into the game' and be a player... don't wait for someone else to take care of it, **YOU** must take part! **As Knights Templar, we listen for the sound of the last trumpet, hoist our colors, draw our swords, and sound the charge... and success will be ours!**

**161<sup>st</sup> Grand Conclave** – By the time you read this, final preparations are being made for the **161<sup>st</sup> Grand Conclave, being held in Houston, Texas, on April 25-28, 2014, at the Marriott Westchase**. I hope that by now, you have made your reservations and plan on being there to participate with your Grand Commandery. Remember what I have been telling you for some time now, you elect the Grand Officers to serve you, and your participation is most important to facilitate this. I look forward to seeing you in Houston, in April.

**Looking Forward** – The Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight Robert Loflin, is diligently making plans for the next term of office for our Grand Commandery; He is a great leader, with many great ideas, and I hope that you will support him as much as you have supported me. He may call upon you to perform a task for him, or a duty for the Grand Commandery, and I ask you to give that request your full attention; It is this cooperation that makes our organization run smoothly and efficiently, and I thank you for your participation.

**Behind the Scenes** – I would like to acknowledge two Sir Knights that have consistently supported all of us, in their duties for this Grand Commandery; they are Sir Knight Michael Blair, the webmaster for the Grand Commandery's website, who has maintained the site and guided us through a difficult transition to a new domain and keeping all of the information on the site up to date. The other is Sir Knight Jeff Bennett, the Editor of this Texas Supplement to the Knights Templar magazine, who has reviewed each of my writings, checked my spelling and punctuation and submitted them to the Grand Encampment for publication. These Sir Knights operate daily for all of us, doing their jobs with much efficiency, with little to no recognition and making us all look good. Thank you both for another year of service and a job well done!

**Lastly** – I wanted to say "THANK YOU" for electing me to serve you and this Grand Commandery for the last ten years; I have given you my best effort and I hope that in some way you have been encouraged to remain or get active with your Commandery.

Also, to all of the Committee Chairmen and Committee Members, it's your efforts that make our Grand Commandery function and I "THANK YOU" for your efforts to make the Grand Commandery of Texas, the best it can be!

– Don't be afraid of greatness, step up to the challenge and promote Templary!

**+ H. Bart Henderson + Grand Commander + 2013-2014 +**  
**"Do right, and risk the consequences!" - Brother Sam Houston**

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